



**Chris Danou's Capitol Report**  
UW-Madison Positively Impacts Our Community

For the past five years, Republican legislative leaders at the State Capitol have done many things that have crippled and divided our state in many ways. Even though I could write a book about the many negative, and self-serving things they pushed through the legislature, I have great concern for the hostility and open animosity toward our nationally ranked and world-renown UW-Madison.

While I understand my colleagues and I have different views when it comes to certain political issues, I can't figure out why the Governor and Republican majority undercut things like UW-Madison that give us great pride in our community and across Wisconsin. Aside from rooting for the Badgers on the football field, hockey rink and basketball court, the UW truly does bring countless opportunities and great pride to our state in many ways.

Along with high rankings in athletics, some other notable rankings list UW-Madison as being ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in both resident and nonresident tuition among Big Ten public universities. Even though the cost of college has been consistently rising, the cost to attend UW-Madison isn't rising as dramatically as other Big Ten schools. UW-Madison ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in research spending among all U.S. universities with \$1.1 billion being spent last year. Aside from being a major engine of activity in Dane County, UW-Madison has direct and positive impacts on the 92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, despite the fact the campus is about 155 miles from my home in Trempealeau. These positive impacts reach well into Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau counties.

There are currently 83 students from the district enrolled at UW-Madison, along with 608 alumni living in the district. That includes 16 doctors, 10 nurses, 24 pharmacists and 11 veterinarians. UW Health covers 125 people in Buffalo County, 146 in Jackson County and 339 in Trempealeau County. The university spent \$229,424.28 in the district and lists 14 employers as being part of BuckyNet, which is a password protected online service that connects students with employers. This is a great way for students to post their resume and network for job opportunities.

The UW helps our local economy in several sectors and provides job opportunities for people in our area, including the industry leading work being done through the Discovery Farms Program. This program has worked with Wisconsin farms, including Bragger Farms in Independence to identify the water quality impacts of different farming systems and settings around the state. The research and work being done will help us improve farming techniques for the next generation, and will help us be even more environmentally responsible in our farming practices.

These are only a few examples that show the value and importance of having an institution like UW-Madison in our state. Its positive impacts contribute in so many ways and are felt everywhere, not just on the football field or basketball court. Having a strong UW-Madison helps us have a strong Wisconsin so I hope Republican legislative leaders at the State Capitol start embracing UW-Madison versus demonizing it like they have been the past few years.

